

SENATOR BARNETT: Thank you very much for your answers, Senator Savage.

SENATOR SAVAGE: I am concerned about Senator Hefner who is on the border between Iowa and Nebraska, and if we have a higher gasoline tax than Iowa, why I suppose I would lose him some customers.

SENATOR BARNETT: Is it possible, Senator Savage, in your opinion, if we give it this gasoline tax increase and President Carter comes through with his tax increase, and from your study you probably know more about this than I, are we looking at a dollar a gallon down the road not over maybe four or five months away? Are we looking at a dollar a gallon?

SENATOR SAVAGE: I don't have a crystal ball, Wally, but it is a possibility, yes, and that money will not come back to us to do work on our highways either. That is the important thing at the moment.

SENATOR BARNETT: I appreciate your answers even though whichever way I go. I appreciate getting answers.

SENATOR SAVAGE: I can't answer your last question.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, you talk about where this money is going to go and I am sure the state has a pile of plans. You wouldn't believe all the things that they have set aside because they haven't had the funds to do it. I happen to know where the counties are because we prepare a one and six year road program each year and update it each year. I don't think we have moved it very far in the last few years and I would like to take a great number of you on the rides that I took this last year when I campaigned for office through Webster and Nuckolls and Franklin counties. There are bridges there yet that were built at the turn of the century for horse and buggy and it is almost impossible to get across them, say nothing of taking the heavy loads that they have today. They are just not able to do anything with those roads. They don't have enough money and bridges, of course, have gone sky high too. But one of the things I would like to touch on and it was mentioned this morning. We seem to continually have a fight between what we in rural Nebraska need and what the educators think they need and I would hope we wouldn't get into too big a fight over this but one of the main reasons we need county roads today is because of the school buses. We absolutely can't get our kids to school unless the roads are open. When I was on the county board, one of the first calls I got each morning was whether the road was open so the school bus could run. The next calls are for the mail, of course, because people like to get their mail. So I don't believe you people in the city realize what we are up against out there. Each maintainer operator in our county has a hundred miles of road to take care of, and if you think he can get over that in an hour or two so the roads are all open like they are in the city, well, you have got another guess a coming. It took several days and we got a lot of flak, especially from people that wanted to see that their kids got to school regularly. So I think we have got a problem here and this